THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. If the State Governments reduce electricity tariff, the rate of return of Railway Electrification projects will increase. Railways will be able to electrify more Route Kilometres as more and more Railway Electrification projects will qualify the threshold limit of 14% rate of returns for consideration.

(b) and (c) Details of the action taken by this Ministry for reduction in power tariffs for electric traction are as under:

(i) State Governments and Power supply authorities are being constantly persuaded to reduce tariff to make it reasonable.

(ii) State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have been set up in 13 States. In 11 States, the zonal Railways have approached SERCS. During 2001-2002, after successful presentations, reduction of 1 to 4% in tariff has been achieved in UP, Delhi, Maharashtra and Haryana. In Andhra Pradesh, there has been no increase in tariff. It has also been possible to limit the increase in two States *i.e.* Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Facilities at railway stations in U.P.

†413. SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public convenience services like toilets, drinking water, sitting arrangements and canteen are lacking at Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Jaunpur City and Azamgarh railway stations in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to provide such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Passenger Amenities at stations are provided as per the laid down norms which are based on the daily passenger traffic at stations and annual earnings therefrom.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The details of the facilities available *viz-a-viz* requirements are as under:—

Stations	Facilities	Required	Available
Shamli	Toilets	4	4
	Drinking water taps	12	47
	Sitting Arrangement	100	140
Muzaffarnagar	Toilets	6	10
	Drinking water taps	24	43
	Sitting Arrangement	150	84
Saharanpur	Toilets	10	18
	Drinking water taps	48	88
	Sitting Arrangement	400	376
Jaunpur City	Toilets	6	14
	Drinking water taps	36	28
	Sitting Arrangement	225	232
Azamgarh	Toilets	2	7
	Drinking water taps	12	25
	Sitting Arrangement	37	132

Catering/vending facilities are provided at stations duly considering the flow of passenger traffic and demand at a particular station. Railways do, from time to time, evaluate the requirement of passengers at each station and provide such facilities as and when required. Following catering/ vending facilities are available at these stations which are adequate to meet the passengers' demand:

Station	Refesh-ment room	Tea stall	Tea snacks trolley	Poori Bhaji trolley	Milk Bar	Fruit Stall
Shamli	—	4	7	1	—	—
Muzaffarnagar	—	5	13	6	—	—
Saharanpur	1	7	12	4	2	—
Jaunpur City	—	1	—	—	—	—
Azamgarh	—	—	1	—	—	1

As indicated above, most of the amenities have been provided commensurate with the passenger traffic at these stations and are considered adequate.

(c) Saharanpur railway station has been selected for development as a Model Station. Further, deficiencies in minimum passenger amenities are being made good as a continuous process based on availability of resources and other relative priorities.

Bifurcation of Westzern Railway Zone

414. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate the Western Zone Railway Headquarters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Western Railway Zone is being reorganised in the process of creation of new Railway Zones. Ajmer and Jaipur Divisions of Western Railway will go to the new North Western Railway, Jaipur, *w.e.f.* 1.10.2002 and Kota Division of Western Railway will go to the new West Central Railway, Jabalpur, *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003.

Re-demarcation of Railway Zones

415. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to create two additional Railway Zones and re-demarcate the jurisdiction of several other zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on creation of these zones;

(d) whether Government's move has been opposed by the concerned State Governments, various federations of Railway workers and different political parties; if so, the reasons therefor; and